

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 14, 2006. Claims 1-44 are pending.

The abstract stands objected to at the top of page 2 of the Office Action. The abstract has been amended herein to address any potential issue in this respect.

Claims 1-5, 8-13, 19-27, 31, 34-37 and 40-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Eller. These Section 102(b) rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires “a method of reducing a relative humidity of inside air inside an enclosed space, the method comprising: drawing outside air from outside the enclosed space to create an air stream discharging into the enclosed space; allowing an amount of air substantially corresponding to the air stream to escape from the enclosed space; sensing the relative humidity of the air in at least one sensing location; in response to the relative humidity sensed at the at least one sensing location, raising a temperature of the outside air drawn in as required to lower the relative humidity of the air stream such that the relative humidity of the inside air is substantially maintained at a desired relative humidity.” Eller fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined features of claim 1.

Claim 10 requires “an apparatus for reducing a relative humidity of inside air inside an enclosed space, the apparatus comprising: a portable outside air heat exchanger unit comprising: a fan operative to create an air stream by drawing air from an intake and discharging the air through an outlet; a temperature adjusting element located in the air stream; wherein the intake is adapted to draw air from outside the enclosed space and the outlet is adapted to discharge the air stream into the enclosed space; a heating source connectable to the heat exchanger unit and operative to supply heat energy to the temperature adjusting element in response to directions

from a heat controller; at least one humidity sensor operative to sense the relative humidity of the air in a sensing location and to send a humidity signal to the heat controller; wherein the heat controller is operative to receive the humidity signal and change the amount of heat energy supplied to the temperature adjusting element in response to the humidity signal.” Again, Eller fails to disclose or suggest these underlined features of claim 10.

Claim 31 requires “an apparatus for drying and scrubbing inside air inside an enclosed space, the apparatus comprising: a portable heat exchanger unit comprising: a fan operative to create an air stream by drawing air from an intake and discharging the air through an outlet; a temperature adjusting element located in the air stream; a HEPA filter capable of High Efficient Particulate Attenuation located such that the air stream passes through the HEPA filter; a coarse filter located upstream from the HEPA filter such that the air stream passes through the coarse filter prior to passing through the HEPA filter; a heating source connectable to the heat exchanger unit and operative to supply heat energy to the temperature adjusting element in response to directions from a heat controller.” Again, Eller fails to disclose or suggest these underlined features of claim 31.

The Office Action states that Eller at column 9, lines 6 – 14, teaches the step of maintaining the desired relative humidity by raising the temperature. Eller states at column 9, lines 6 – 14:

“The conditioning unit 50 includes an evaporation coil 60 which cools the air to a temperature below its dew point, such that the air is cooled and moisture in the air simultaneously condenses on the coil 60 and it is removed via condensate line 61. The conditioning unit 50 may also include an air stream condensor coil 62, which reheats the dehumidified air to a desired temperature utilizing heat recaptured from the dehumidification process.”

In this regard, Eller teaches maintaining the desired relative humidity by *cooling* the air to condense moisture, not raising the temperature of the air. Thus, Eller teaches the opposite of what the Office Action contends. In contrast, the method of claim 1 for example reduces the humidity by raising the temperature of air.

Eller further states at column 10, lines 28 - 36:

“The techniques of the present invention are designed to maintain a desired negative pressure within the enclosed working area, while also returning a substantial portion of the exhausted air back to the working area after this air is first filtered and conditioned. All or substantially all conditioned air thus first passes through the filter unit 44. Since negative pressure exists within the working area, some air will inevitably leak from outside into the working area.”

In certain example embodiments of this invention, such a negative pressure in the enclosed area cannot be maintained, since a stream of outside air is drawn into the enclosed space, which stream must, if anything, increase the pressure in the enclosed space to a positive pressure. In this respect, the claimed stream is not disclosed or suggested by Eller.

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

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Respectfully submitted,

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